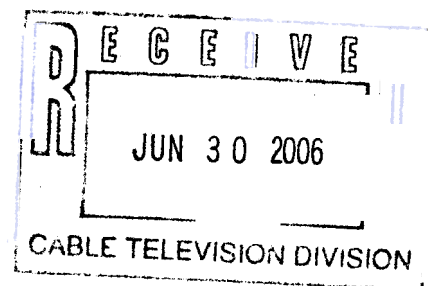




Town of Falmouth

OFFICE OF SELECTMEN & ADMINISTRATOR

59 TOWN HALL SQUARE, FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS 02540
TELEPHONE (508) 495-7320
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RE: Docket CTV 06-1

Andrea Nixon
Clerk, Cable Television Division
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Clerk,

The Town of Falmouth would like to register its strong objection to Verizon's March 16, 2006, rulemaking petition filed with the Cable Division of the Department of Telecommunications and Energy (DTE): Docketed as CTV 06-1. Verizon's petition proposes extremely unreasonable new views for initial cable licensing.

The proposed rules would require a municipality to hold a public hearing on an initial cable television license application within 60 days of the application filing, and would require only 30 days from the time of public hearing for the municipality to approve or disapprove the application, and issue the actual license in case of approval. This is a time-table completely at odds with the multitude of issues that municipalities must contend with on an on-going basis. Especially troubling is their method of proceeding after a denial. In Verizon's proposed rules, a denial would result in the applicants then only needing to appeal directly to DTE for approval, bypassing local jurisdiction. Additional issues are the following.

Legislation is the proper forum for this request, not an administrative rulemaking.

For over 40 years, Cable Franchising has been negotiated between the cable operator and a municipality. This form of licensing has worked for the profit of the cable operator and the needs of the local community. This successful form of negotiation will be effectively eliminated by Verizon's proposal.

Under the Verizon rulemaking proposal, municipalities lose their ability to manage their public rights of way.

The proposed rule making does not have standards for evaluating the phone company's proposals by the municipality or DTE. There must be a standard of performance.

We believe this proposal will strain DTE resources and we question DTE's ability to evaluate licenses rejected by the municipalities in the time frame required.

The phone companies are not presently barred from entering into the market. They can compete using the present franchising system to provide service. Because of this, new regulations are not needed.

Lack of build-out requirements in this proposal are of great concern. This rulemaking will allow Verizon to limit service to only profitable areas.

Currently Falmouth receives support for Public, Educational and Government Access (PEG) via a percentage of the cable operator gross annual revenue, matching funds, capital funds and financial support for three channels for PEG programming. Public, Education, and Government (PEG) Access will be adversely effected or eliminated by Verizon's proposal.

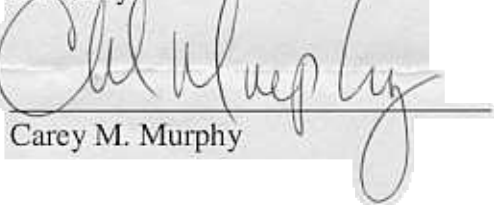
Municipalities must retain local control over franchises in order to insure that consumer and community needs are met. DTE cannot be expected to evaluate local needs better than the municipality. Local needs need to be evaluated locally. This will not be possible under Verizon's proposal.

Competition should be on a level playing field and have detailed local input.

"Net Neutrality" must be protected.

After careful consideration, experience over the last forty years tells us that Verizon's proposal works against local interest and that the current form of cable licensing is in the best interest of our community. We respectfully request the DTE deny this proposal

Sincerely,

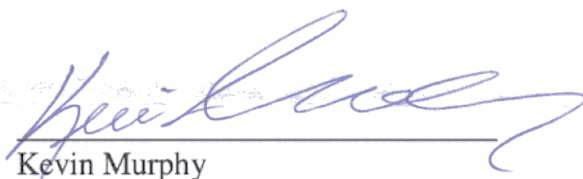


Carey M. Murphy

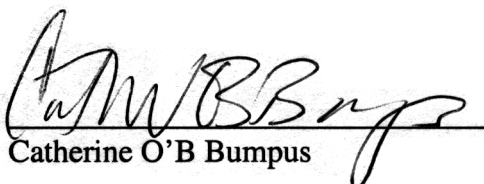
Virginia Valiela



Ahmed A. Mustafa



Kevin Murphy



Catherine O'B Bumpus